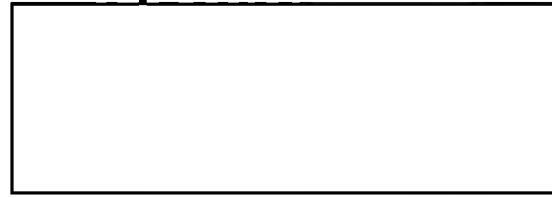


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Approved For Release 2003/11/19 : CIA-RDP79T00975A024100130002-8

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CAMBODIA: Khmer insurgents close in on Phnom Penh.  
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EGYPT: Militant rhetoric now accompanied by civil defense exercises. (Page 2)

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CAMBODIA: The Khmer insurgents, who have interdicted sections of all main lines of communication leading into Phnom Penh, may now be ready to apply more direct military pressure against the capital.

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The capital's numerically superior defense forces should be able to withstand sizable insurgent ground attacks close to Phnom Penh with the aid of air support. Sapper raids in the city itself, however, could have a far more serious impact on the already shaky political and military situation.

The Cambodian Army's growing ineffectiveness is due in part to such long-standing problems as poor field leadership and organization. Other factors include a growing reluctance by many government troops to fight, a general war-weariness brought on by dashed hopes that the Vietnam cease-fire would be extended to Cambodia, and loss of respect for the increasingly remote Lon Nol.

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EGYPT: Civil defense exercises and a blood donation drive have been widely publicized and accompanied by additional militant rhetoric in the local media. President Sadat has also increased the punishments for crimes relating to civil disobedience as part of his drive to tighten up on the home front.

Sadat's credibility remains low and most Egyptians apparently are skeptical that the government is engaged in creating anything more than the usual contrived tensions. The US Interests Section in Cairo reports local speculation, however, that the regime in fact may be planning a military move against Israel soon. Last year Sadat said that Cairo would celebrate a victory over the Israelis by the anniversary of the birth of the prophet Muhammad on 15 April.

Sadat is certainly aware of the dangers involved in a military move against the Israelis and this realization is probably shared by most leaders in the Egyptian armed forces. There still are no signs of military movements that would precede Egyptian military operations against Israel, although indications of limited military activity would not necessarily become available.

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